samples to solve. If no, then the method ends at step 326. If there are more samples, execution continues at step 300.--

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 4, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15 and 16.

Add new claims 17 to 22 as follows:

1   17.   (New) The method of claim 1, wherein:

2   said step of calculating a noise estimate includes

3   if a current smoothed power estimate is greater than a

4   product of a predetermined constant upconst and a prior noise

5   estimate, then setting a current noise estimate equal to said

6   product of said predetermined constant upconst and said prior

7   noise estimate,

8   if said current smoothed power estimate is less than a

9   product of a predetermined constant downconst and said prior

10 noise estimate, then setting a current noise estimate equal to

11 said product of said predetermined constant downconst and said

12 prior noise estimate, and

13 else setting a current noise estimate equal to said

14 current smoothed power estimate.

18.   (New) The method of claim 17, wherein:

said step of calculating a noise estimate further includes

setting said predetermined constant upconst to limit increase in

said noise estimate to less than 3 Db per second.

1   19.   (New) The method of claim 17, wherein:

2   said step of calculating a noise estimate further includes

3   setting said predetermined constant downconst to limit decrease in

4   said noise estimate to less than 12 Db per second.

- 5 -

1   20. (New) The system of claim 9, wherein:

2   said noise suppression circuit operates to calculate a noise

3 estimate by being operable to

4   set a current noise estimate equal to said product of

5 said predetermined constant upconst and said prior noise

6 estimate if a current smoothed power estimate is greater than

7 a product of a predetermined constant upconst and a prior

8 noise estimate,

9   set a current noise estimate equal to said product of

10 said predetermined constant downconst and said prior noise

11 estimate if said current smoothed power estimate is less than

12 a product of a predetermined constant downconst and said prior

13 noise estimate, and

14   else set a current noise estimate equal to said current

15 smoothed power estimate.

1   21. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein:

2   said noise suppression circuit operates to calculate a

3 noise estimate by being further operable to set said

4 predetermined constant upconst to limit increase in said noise

5 estimate to less than 3 Db per second.

1   22. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein:

2   said noise suppression circuit operates to calculate a

3 noise estimate by being further operable to set said

4 predetermined constant downconst to limit decrease in said

5 noise estimate to less than 12 Db per second.